

tori amos cornflake girl

tori amos cornflake girl is a phrase that resonates deeply with fans of alternative and art rock music, primarily due to the hauntingly poetic song "Cornflake Girl" from Tori Amos's 1994 album *Under the Pink*. This track not only showcases Amos's signature piano-driven sound but also encapsulates themes of betrayal, sisterhood, and societal expectations. Over the years, "Cornflake Girl" has become an iconic piece in Amos's discography, inspiring interpretations, covers, and discussions among music enthusiasts and critics alike. In this article, we will explore the origins of the song, its lyrical themes, musical composition, cultural impact, and the enduring legacy of Tori Amos's work surrounding this compelling track.

Origins and Background of "Cornflake Girl"

Creation and Recording

Released in 1994 as part of her third studio album, *Under the Pink*, "Cornflake Girl" was written by Tori Amos herself. The song was conceived during a period of intense personal reflection and artistic growth. Amos, known for her poetic lyricism and distinctive piano style, crafted "Cornflake Girl" as a response to themes of female solidarity and betrayal, inspired by her observations of societal and personal dynamics.

The recording process involved Amos's meticulous attention to detail, with layered piano arrangements and subtle instrumental textures that create a haunting, intimate atmosphere. The song's production was overseen by Ian Ritchie, emphasizing Amos's desire to maintain emotional authenticity.

Meaning Behind the Title

The phrase "cornflake girl" is a colloquial, somewhat cryptic term that Amos has explained as representing a type of girl who is traditional, conformist, or perhaps naïve. The song contrasts these "cornflake girls" with the "raisin girls," symbolizing differing attitudes toward independence and authenticity. Amos's lyrics delve into the complexities of female relationships, emphasizing themes of trust, betrayal, and sisterhood.

Lyrical Themes and Interpretations

Exploring Betrayal and Trust

At its core, "Cornflake Girl" examines the pain of betrayal among women, with Amos using vivid imagery and metaphorical language. Lyrics such as "And I feel like a freak, but I feel like a girl" evoke vulnerability and societal pressures placed upon women to conform or

betray their authentic selves. The song suggests that betrayal often comes from those closest to us, challenging listeners to consider the nuances of trust and friendship.

Female Solidarity and Sisterhood

Despite the themes of betrayal, "Cornflake Girl" also celebrates female solidarity. Amos's lyrics reference the importance of supporting one another, even amidst difficulties. The song's chorus emphasizes unity and resilience, encouraging women to stand together against societal expectations.

Symbolism and Metaphors

Amos employs rich symbolism throughout the song:

- **Raisin Girls:** Representing independent, perhaps rebellious women who challenge norms.
- **Cornflake Girls:** Conforming or naive girls who follow societal expectations.
- **Silent and Whispered Secrets:** Highlighting the unspoken betrayals and hidden truths among friends.

These metaphors deepen the song's message about authenticity and the complex layers of female relationships.

Musical Composition and Style

Instrumentation and Arrangement

"Cornflake Girl" features Amos's distinctive piano playing, characterized by delicate, rhythmic patterns intertwined with subtle percussion and atmospheric textures. The song's arrangement builds gradually, layering vocals, piano, and ambient sounds to create an immersive listening experience.

The song's tempo is moderate, balancing introspective lyricism with an engaging groove. The use of dissonant chords and unconventional harmonies adds to its haunting and mysterious quality.

Vocal Delivery

Amos's vocal performance is emotionally charged, blending vulnerability with strength. Her expressive singing enhances the song's themes of betrayal and sisterhood, making it resonate on a deeply personal level with listeners.

Cultural Impact and Popularity

Chart Performance and Reception

"Cornflake Girl" was a commercial success, reaching the top 40 in several countries and becoming one of Amos's signature songs. Critics praised its lyrical depth and musical complexity, solidifying Amos's reputation as a leading figure in alternative music.

Influence on Music and Artists

The song has influenced numerous artists across genres, inspiring covers and reinterpretations. Its fusion of poetic lyricism and inventive arrangement set a benchmark for singer-songwriters exploring themes of female empowerment and societal critique.

Appearances in Media and Cover Versions

"Cornflake Girl" has appeared in various films, television shows, and commercials, further embedding it into popular culture. Notable covers include renditions by artists such as Tori Amos tribute bands and contemporary singer-songwriters, each bringing their own nuance to the song.

Legacy of Tori Amos and "Cornflake Girl"

Amos's Artistic Evolution

The success of "Cornflake Girl" marked a pivotal point in Amos's career, showcasing her ability to blend introspective songwriting with accessible melodies. Her subsequent albums continued to explore complex social and personal themes, inspired by her work on this track.

Fan Community and Cultural Significance

Amos's dedicated fanbase regards "Cornflake Girl" as more than just a song—it's an anthem of female empowerment, authenticity, and resilience. The song often features in live performances, with fans eagerly participating in singalongs and interpretations.

Enduring Legacy and Influence

Decades after its release, "Cornflake Girl" remains relevant, resonating with new generations of listeners. Its themes of betrayal, sisterhood, and societal expectations continue to inspire discussions about gender dynamics and personal integrity.

Conclusion

"tori amos cornflake girl" is a powerful testament to Amos's songwriting mastery and her ability to capture complex emotional landscapes through music. From its poetic lyrics to its haunting melodies, the song invites listeners to reflect on trust, betrayal, and the strength found in sisterhood. Its lasting impact underscores Amos's influence on music and culture, making "Cornflake Girl" a timeless piece that continues to inspire and resonate across generations.

Whether you're a longtime fan or new explorer of her work, understanding the depth behind "Cornflake Girl" enriches appreciation for Tori Amos's artistry and the universal themes she masterfully weaves into her music.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the meaning behind Tori Amos's song 'Cornflake Girl'?

'Cornflake Girl' is often interpreted as a metaphor for betrayal and the loss of innocence, inspired by a phrase Tori Amos's friend used to describe women she trusted who ultimately let her down.

When was 'Cornflake Girl' by Tori Amos released, and on which album did it appear?

'Cornflake Girl' was released in 1994 as the lead single from Tori Amos's third studio album, 'Under the Pink.'

What inspired Tori Amos to write 'Cornflake Girl'?

Tori Amos was inspired by themes of female friendship, betrayal, and empowerment, drawing on personal experiences and the concept of 'sisterhood' versus betrayal, symbolized through the metaphor of cornflake girls versus 'pickle boys.'

How has 'Cornflake Girl' influenced popular culture and music?

The song became one of Tori Amos's signature tracks, influencing alternative and singer-songwriter genres, and has been covered and referenced in various media, reflecting its lasting impact on fans and artists alike.

Are there any notable covers or performances of 'Cornflake Girl'?

Yes, numerous artists have covered 'Cornflake Girl,' and Tori Amos has performed it in various live concerts, often adding unique interpretations, making it a staple in her live

repertoire.

Additional Resources

Tori Amos Cornflake Girl: An In-Depth Investigation into a Musical Milestone

Introduction

In the landscape of 1990s alternative music, few songs have managed to carve out a unique space as distinctly as Cornflake Girl by Tori Amos. Released in 1994 as the lead single from her album *Under the Pink*, the track has since become emblematic of Amos's lyrical prowess, distinctive piano-driven sound, and her ability to craft songs layered with symbolism and social commentary. This investigative article delves into the origins, themes, musical composition, cultural impact, and ongoing legacy of Cornflake Girl, offering a comprehensive analysis suitable for music critics, scholars, and dedicated fans alike.

The Origins of Cornflake Girl

Background and Recording

Tori Amos, a classically trained pianist and singer-songwriter, emerged onto the alternative scene in the early 1990s with her debut album *Little Earthquakes*. Her subsequent release, *Under the Pink*, marked a maturation of her artistic voice, blending personal storytelling with provocative themes. Cornflake Girl was recorded during this period, in 1993-1994, at The Clubhouse in Rhinebeck, New York.

Amos has explained that the song's title was inspired by her observations of women's relationships and societal roles. The term cornflake girl was coined during her childhood, referencing a childhood friend who was perceived as "conventional" or "sheep-like," in contrast to a more rebellious "raisin girl." Over time, Amos repurposed the term to symbolize women who conform versus those who challenge societal expectations.

Symbolism and Meaning

Multiple interpretations surround Cornflake Girl. Some view it as a commentary on female solidarity, betrayal, and the complex dynamics within women's relationships. Others see it as an allegory for societal conformity, emphasizing the importance of individual authenticity. Amos herself has indicated that the song explores themes of trust, betrayal, and the pain of disillusionment, especially among women.

Musical Composition and Arrangement

Structural Overview

Cornflake Girl is notable for its unconventional song structure. The track opens with a distinctive piano motif, accompanied by a subtle drum pattern and layered harmonies. The song's arrangement builds dynamically, introducing synth textures and vocal harmonies that add depth.

Key Elements

- Piano: Amos's classical training shines through in her intricate piano work, which forms the backbone of the track.
- Rhythm: The song features a distinctive rhythmic pattern, with a syncopated drumbeat that propels the song forward.
- Harmonies and Vocals: Amos's vocal delivery is both intimate and powerful, employing layered harmonies and dynamic shifts.
- Production: Produced by Tori Amos and Eric Rosse, the production balances raw emotion with polished studio craftsmanship.

Musical Influences

The song incorporates elements of art rock and alternative pop, with influences from classical music, evident in its melodic complexity. The repetitive piano motif creates a hypnotic effect, drawing listeners into its lyrical narrative.

Lyrical Analysis and Themes

The Lyrics

The lyrics of Cornflake Girl are poetic, cryptic, and layered with symbolism. Key lines include:

> "And I've been waiting for the sky to fall / And I've been hoping it's a lie."

These lines suggest anticipation of upheaval and the desire for reassurance in uncertain times.

Major Themes Explored

- Female Solidarity and Betrayal: The song explores the bonds between women, highlighting themes of trust and betrayal.
- Societal Expectations: It critiques societal pressures placed on women to conform.
- Personal Disillusionment: Amos reflects on moments of disillusionment and the pain caused by betrayal.

Symbolism in the Lyrics

- Cornflake Girl: Represents the conventional, conformist woman—"the sheep"—versus the rebellious 'raisin girl.'
- Sky Falling: Symbolizes upheaval or significant change.
- Betrayal and Trust: Recurrent motifs that reflect personal and societal conflicts.

Cultural Impact and Reception

Critical Reception

Upon release, Cornflake Girl received widespread acclaim from critics. Reviewers praised Amos's lyrical depth, vocal delivery, and innovative arrangement. The track was lauded for its lyrical complexity, marking a departure from mainstream pop and anchoring Amos as a serious artist.

Chart Performance

- Reached 9 on the US Billboard Modern Rock Tracks chart.
- Peaked at 13 on the UK Singles Chart.
- Gained significant airplay on alternative and college radio stations.

Influence on Music and Culture

Cornflake Girl has been influential within the alternative and singer-songwriter communities. Its lyrical themes resonate with feminist discourse, and the song's poetic ambiguity has inspired countless interpretations and analyses.

The track also appeared in various media, including television shows and compilations, cementing its cultural significance.

Legacy and Continued Relevance

Live Performances and Covers

Amos has performed Cornflake Girl in numerous live settings, often improvising or reinterpreting sections, demonstrating its enduring importance in her repertoire. The song's influence extends to covers by artists such as:

- Tori Amos herself, in acoustic and orchestral arrangements.
- Other artists in tribute albums and live tribute concerts.

Academic and Critical Analysis

Music scholars have analyzed Cornflake Girl as an exemplar of 1990s alternative songwriting, noting its lyrical richness and innovative arrangement. Its exploration of female agency and societal expectations makes it a subject of feminist musicology.

Influence on Contemporary Artists

Emerging singer-songwriters and alternative artists cite Amos's Cornflake Girl as an inspiration for blending poetic lyricism with personal storytelling.

The Ongoing Legacy

Today, Cornflake Girl remains a staple of Tori Amos's live performances and a touchstone for fans and critics alike. Its enduring relevance lies in its poetic reflection of complex human dynamics and societal expectations, wrapped in a musically compelling package.

The song exemplifies Amos's artistic ethos: challenging conventions, embracing vulnerability, and celebrating individual authenticity. Its layered symbolism and emotional depth continue to inspire new generations of listeners and musicians.

Conclusion

Cornflake Girl by Tori Amos is more than just a hit single; it is a multifaceted artistic statement that encapsulates the complexity of female identity, societal pressures, and personal disillusionment. Its innovative musical composition, poetic lyrics, and cultural impact have secured its place as a landmark in 1990s alternative music. As an investigative exploration, it reveals how a single song can serve as a mirror reflecting societal shifts, personal struggles, and artistic brilliance. Whether approached as a piece of musical craftsmanship or a cultural artifact, Cornflake Girl remains a compelling subject worthy of continued study and appreciation.

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tori amos cornflake girl: Tori Amos Susan Wilson, 1996-04-01

tori amos cornflake girl: **Tori Amos** Jake Brown, 2011 Featuring exclusive interviews with her producers, sound engineers and backing band, as well as in-depth research into the singer herself, *Tori Amos: In the Studio* explores this groundbreaking artist's career album by album. From performing as a child prodigy pianist to her first bands, her breakthrough album as a solo artist to her prolific years of recording and touring, Tori Amos has refused to play by the rules of the recording industry and fearlessly forged her own path and musical identity.

tori amos cornflake girl: Pretty Good Years Jay S. Jacobs, 2006 A portrait of the talented singer/songwriter traces the evolution of a musical prodigy, from her early years to become one of the most important female musical voices of contemporary music, revealing how she has combined her talent on the piano with inspiration from some of the most tragic incidents of her life to create musical art. Original.

tori amos cornflake girl: **Tori Amos's Boys for Pele** Amy Gentry, 2018-11-01 It's hard to think of a solo female recording artist who has been as revered or as reviled over the course of her career as Tori Amos. Amy Gentry argues that these violent aesthetic responses to Amos's performance, both positive and negative, are organized around disgust-the disgust that women are taught to feel, not only for their own bodies, but for their taste in music. Released in 1996, Amos's third album, *Boys for Pele*, represents the height of Amos's willingness to explore the ugly qualities that make all of her music, even her more conventionally beautiful albums, so uncomfortably, and so wonderfully, strange. Using a blend of memoir, criticism, and aesthetic theory, Gentry argues that the aesthetics of disgust are useful for thinking in a broader way about women's experience of all art forms.

tori amos cornflake girl: *Los Angeles Magazine* , 1996-06 *Los Angeles magazine* is a regional

magazine of national stature. Our combination of award-winning feature writing, investigative reporting, service journalism, and design covers the people, lifestyle, culture, entertainment, fashion, art and architecture, and news that define Southern California. Started in the spring of 1961, Los Angeles magazine has been addressing the needs and interests of our region for 48 years. The magazine continues to be the definitive resource for an affluent population that is intensely interested in a lifestyle that is uniquely Southern Californian.

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tori amos cornflake girl: ELLEgirl , 2004-04 ELLEgirl, the international style bible for girls who dare to be different, is published by Hachette Filipacchi Media U.S., Inc., and is accessible on the web at ellegirl.elle.com/. ELLEgirl provides young women with insider information on fashion, beauty, service and pop culture in a voice that, while maintaining authority on the subject, includes and amuses them.

tori amos cornflake girl: The Story of Arthur Truluv Elizabeth Berg, 2018-07-10 “I dare you to read this novel and not fall in love with Arthur Truluv. His story will make you laugh and cry, and will show you a love that never ends, and what it means to be truly human.”—Fannie Flagg An emotionally powerful novel about three people who each lose the one they love most, only to find second chances where they least expect them “Fans of Meg Wolitzer, Emma Straub, or [Elizabeth] Berg’s previous novels will appreciate the richly complex characters and clear prose. Redemptive without being maudlin, this story of two misfits lucky to have found one another will tug at readers’ heartstrings.”—Booklist For the past six months, Arthur Moses’s days have looked the same: He tends to his rose garden and to Gordon, his cat, then rides the bus to the cemetery to visit his beloved late wife for lunch. The last thing Arthur would imagine is for one unlikely encounter to utterly transform his life. Eighteen-year-old Maddy Harris is an introspective girl who visits the cemetery to escape the other kids at school. One afternoon she joins Arthur—a gesture that begins a surprising friendship between two lonely souls. Moved by Arthur’s kindness and devotion, Maddy gives him the nickname “Truluv.” As Arthur’s neighbor Lucille moves into their orbit, the unlikely trio band together and, through heartache and hardships, help one another rediscover their own potential to start anew. Wonderfully written and full of profound observations about life, *The Story of Arthur Truluv* is a beautiful and moving novel of compassion in the face of loss, of the small acts that turn friends into family, and of the possibilities to achieve happiness at any age. Look for a sneak peek of Elizabeth Berg’s delightful new novel, *Night of Miracles*, in the back of the book. “For several days after [finishing *The Story of Arthur Truluv*], I felt lifted by it, and I found myself telling friends, also feeling overwhelmed by 2017, about the book. Read this, I said, it will offer some balance to all that has happened, and it is a welcome reminder we’re all neighbors here.”—Chicago Tribune “Not since Paul Zindel’s classic *The Pigman* have we seen such a unique bond between people who might not look twice at each other in real life. This small, mighty novel offers proof that they should.”—People, Book of the Week

tori amos cornflake girl: The Connecticut Corpse Caper Tyler Colins, 2021-12-08 A week-long stay in a creepy Connecticut mansion is replete with hidden passageways, disappearing corpses, and quirky inheritance recipients. And if that’s not enough to make for hair-raising moments on the secluded, storm-bound estate, how about a ghost named Fred? The stipulation in the will of Jill-Jocasta Fonne’s aunt reads: if a guest leaves early, his or her share will be divided among those remaining. The first one to leave - permanently - dies just hours after arriving. Soon, people start dropping like flies. Donning amateur sleuth caps, Jill and her associates, Rey and Linda, attempt to solve the mystifying murders. Others jump in, and the bumbling and stumbling - and mayhem - begin.

tori amos cornflake girl: Out , 1999-10 Out is a fashion, style, celebrity and opinion magazine for the modern gay man.

tori amos cornflake girl: *The Chrome Cowgirl Guide to the Motorcycle Life* Sasha Mullins, 2008-09-15 A girl's gotta have a passion--why not a motorcycle? Like a love letter from the wild side of life comes this book from 'chrome cowgirl' Sasha Mullins. A primer for women who ride, or want to, or might simply like to jumpstart their lives, the book covers the ground in a way that's as entertaining as it is informative. Whether it's how to ride, what to do to your bike, or what to wear, Sasha has the advice. What's more, her bike savvy and street strategies pack powerful lessons, offering a friendly word from the wisecracking on how to get the most out of life's wild ride. From choosing, maintaining, and repairing a bike to honing your vocabulary and checking your attitude, there's something here for every woman who ever dreamed of saddling up and becoming an easy rider in control of her destiny.

tori amos cornflake girl: *Women Singer-Songwriters in Rock* Ronald D. Lankford Jr., 2009-11-25 In *Women Singer-Songwriters in Rock: A Populist Rebellion in the 1990s*, Ronald D. Lankford Jr. argues that women singer-songwriters formed a substantial movement within popular music during the 1990s, making a significant social and aesthetic contribution that pushed feminism into mainstream American culture. Lankford examines in depth the work of several artists-including Alanis Morissette, PJ Harvey, Liz Phair, Courtney Love, Tori Amos, Sarah McLachlan, and Sheryl Crow-offering thorough descriptions and analyses of their music, lyrics, and album art. By looking at both the broader movement and individual performers, this book provides a comprehensive and accessible overview of the movement and its message. Lankford introduces the singer-songwriter movement and the artists and genres that paved the way for these 1990s rockers, establishing the arch of the popular movement of women in rock as it mirrored the rise of third wave feminism and sketching the cultural and political landscape that served as a backdrop to the women's singer-songwriter movement during the 1990s. Drawing from resources in books, journals, and zines, Lankford focuses on the exploration of women's issues within the music through analyses of its lyrics and album art and examines how the often hard-edged feminist content was able to filter into mainstream popular culture. To help illustrate this, the book includes a select discography of albums and singles, including their placement and number of weeks spent on various charts. A complete bibliography and index round out this important study, which is a must for fans and scholars of music, popular culture, and women's studies.

tori amos cornflake girl: *Wait Here* Lucy Nelson, 2025-06-04 A dazzling collection of hilarious and heart-wrenching stories united by a groundbreaking theme: each is a sidelong glance at the lives of women who - either by choice or by circumstance - will never be mothers and who feel every way it is possible to feel about it. A dancer discovers she can never have children - a revelation that pales in comparison to the other ways her body has betrayed her. Two elderly sisters who've been inseparable throughout life make a momentous decision. A wet nurse at Coney Island's infamous 'Incubator Babies' sideshow is haunted by the ghost of her own stillborn daughter. A young woman worries about the lack of male role models in her little niece's life... For the women in *Wait Here*, who can't, don't or won't have children, childlessness is a hard-won prize, a freedom, a stain, a joy, a battle, a trifle, a conundrum, a wound, an uneasy comfort on a burning planet. It is nothing. It is everything.

tori amos cornflake girl: *Joel Whitburn Presents Rock Tracks 1981-2008* Joel Whitburn, 2008 (Book). For the first time ever, *Rock Tracks* lists every artist and song to appear on Billboard's Modern Rock Tracks (also known as Alternative) and Mainstream Rock Tracks charts all in one combined, comprehensive A-to-Z artist listing! This all-inclusive format gathers all chart data from both charts in one master listing so it's easy for you to instantly compare your favorite artist's achievements on either or both of Billboard's two premier Rock charts.

tori amos cornflake girl: *I Know Who You Were* Nick Curran, 2023-04-06 'Grabs the reader from the very first page - and never lets go' DAILY MAIL 'Taut and properly disturbing. . . Impressive' The Critic EVERYONE HAS A PAST. . . YOURS IS COMING TO KILL YOU Alex and Morven have a pretty perfect marriage. Still madly in love after ten years, they have no secrets from each other and their life in London with daughter Poppy is . . . happy. Until one day it changes.

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tori amos cornflake girl: *But You Have Friends* Emilia Mckenzie, 2023-08-09 When a dear friend dies by suicide, Emilia is left with only memories. Full of humor and poignancy, this graphic memoir is a meditation on the meaning of friendship and a love letter to an irreplaceable friend. Emilia first met Charlotte in their school locker room in the late '90s. They quickly bonded over indie music, feminist literature, a love of purple, and a shared sense of outsidership. Their joyful, intense friendship evolved through the years—until Charlotte died in 2018 following a long struggle with depression. Now, Emilia assembles her memories into a graphic memoir reflecting on the bond they shared and the ways it shaped them. As they pass in and out of each other's lives, teenage ideals collide with adult realities, prompting reflections about the meaning of friendship. *But You Have Friends* is a tender tribute to an irreplaceable friend and a sharply observed, personal account of the aftermath of loss. It is also a humorous, candid memorial that will resonate with anyone who has ever loved.

tori amos cornflake girl: *Too Much Too Young* Sheila Whiteley, 2013-10-18 *Too Much Too Young* investigates how age and gender have shaped the careers and images of pop music stars, examining the role of youth and youthfulness in pop music through a series of themed case studies. Whiteley begins by investigating the exploitation of child stars such as Brenda Lee and Michael Jackson, offering a psychoanalytic reading of the relationship between child star and oppressive manager, and looks at the current glut of boy- and girl- bands and stars in the mold of Britney

Spears to examine the continuing fatal attraction of stardom for adolescents. Whiteley then considers the star images of female singer-songwriters Kate Bush, Tori Amos, and Bjork, whose 'little girl' voices and characterization by the media suggests a girlish femininity which is often at odds with the intentions of their musical output. She then moves on to explore the rock/pop divide as it affects the image of male performers, considering why male stars usually fall into the category of 'wild boys' such as Kurt Cobain or Jim Morrison, or 'nice boys', like Cliff Richard, The Monkees, and Wham! Whiteley ends by asking what happens to stars who set so much store by manipulations of youthfulness when they begin to age, and points to stars like Robbie Williams, Kylie Minogue and Cher to demonstrate that it is possible to achieve iconic pop status even without dying young.

tori amos cornflake girl: The Sentient Archive Bill Bissell, Linda Caruso Haviland, 2018-06-26 The Sentient Archive gathers the work of scholars and practitioners in dance, performance, science, and the visual arts. Its twenty-eight rich and challenging essays cross boundaries within and between disciplines, and illustrate how the body serves as a repository for knowledge. Contributors include Nancy Goldner, Marcia B. Siegel, Jenn Joy, Alain Platel, Catherine J. Stevens, Meg Stuart, André Lepecki, Ralph Lemon, and other notable scholars and artists. Hardcover is un-jacketed.

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